

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A data transfer network, said network comprising:

a trivial file transfer protocol server connected to transfer data to a series of client apparatus connected to the network; ~~and~~

a master client designated when data is to be transferred; ~~one of the clients is designated the master client and~~

means for determining a rate of transfer of data by the speed of requests for data from said master client ~~determines the rate of transfer of the data to all of the clients; wherein the~~

monitoring and comparing means for monitoring and comparing the rate of transfer of data to each client apparatus when elected the master client ~~is monitored and compared with a predetermined data transfer rate; and~~

a new master client apparatus elected by the trivial file transfer protocol server ~~and if, from the comparison, it is identified that the transfer rate is longer slower than the predetermined data transfer rate; the trivial file transfer protocol server elects another client which is available as master client.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A data transfer network according to claim 1 wherein said trivial file transfer protocol server elects a client as master client which has shown the fastest rate of transfer of data from the series of clients apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) A data transfer network according to claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ said predetermined transfer rate is preset as an optimal time for ~~the~~ transfer of a certain amount of data.

4. (Currently Amended) A data transfer network according to claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ said master client is monitored for a set period of time to allow comparison with said ~~the~~ pre-determined transfer rate.

5. (Currently Amended) A data transfer network according to claim 1 wherein ~~the transfer rate~~ said rate of transfer of data for each of the clients, when elected as master client, is recorded over a period of time and stored in a database of transfer rates, said trivial file transfer protocol server using the database of transfer rates so that on each occasion said trivial file transfer protocol server elects as master client the client which shows the fastest rate of transfer in the database.

6. (Currently Amended) A data transfer network according to claim 5 wherein if ~~the~~ a first master client which said trivial file transfer protocol server attempts to use ~~as master client~~ is not unavailable, then said trivial file transfer protocol server attempts to elect a new master client from said database of transfer rates based on an ascending order of client transfer rates.

7. (Currently Amended) A data transfer network according to claim 5 wherein said database of transfer rates is updated on each occasion when a client is selected as master client.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)